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Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 H-01 INR-07
NSC-05 CIAE-00 ACDA-07 L-03 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
/058 W
----------079051 040927Z /17
O R 040800Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1854
INFO USCINCEUR
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5254

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, YO
SUBJ: DISPOSAL OF US SUPPLIED MILITARY EQUIPMENT

REF: A) BELGRADE 5226 (AND PERVIOUS);
B) STATE 179426 (AND PREVIOUS)

1. DCM WAS INFORMED BY FSFA NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS OFFICE DIRECTOR STARCEVIC AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR CRNJAK AUGUST 3 THAT GOY DESIRES TO POSTPONE TALKS UNTIL WHATEVER DATE AFTER SEPTEMBER 10 "IS MOST CONVENIENT TO US" TEAM. STARCEVIC SAID GOY CONSIDERS THE SUBJECT A "SERIOUS" ONE AND CITED FOLLOWING THREE REASONS FOR YUGOSLAV REQUEST FOR DELAY:
1) FOR SERIOUS TALKS GOY TEAM MUST BE COMPRISED OF THE RIGHT PEOPLE, MANY OF WHOM NOW VACATIONING OUTSIDE OF YUGSOLAVIA AND NOT SCHEDULED RETURN TO WORK BEFORE END OF AUGUST;
2) "EVEN IF WE CAN ORGANIZE A TEAM, THE TIME IS VERY SHORT TO PREPARE";
3) GOY HAD IN MIND "DIFFERENT PEOPLE" FROM ITS SIDE THAN THOSE WHO WOULD CORRESPOND TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE US TEAM (COMPOSITION,
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WITHOUT NAMES, CONVEYED BY EMBASSY TO FSFA AUGUST 2, REF A). STARCEVIC DID NOT ELABORATE, BUT HE OBVIOUSLY MEANT THAT BULK OF YUGOSLAV TEAM WOULD COMPRISE MOD PERSONNEL.

2. CRNJAK SAID THAT WITH THOSE COMPRISING GOY TEAM RETURNING TO WORK NEAR END OF AUGUST, AT LEAST TEN

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DAYS THEREAFTER WILL BE REQUIRED ADEQUATELY TO
PREPARE FOR TALKS. STARCEVIC ADDED THAT MATTER WAS
"NOT IN OUR (I.E., FSFA'S) HANDS", THAT IT DEPENDED
ON DEFENSE MINISTRY.

3. DCM STRESSED HIS BELIEF THAT USG WOULD BE
DISAPPOINTED BY GOY DESIRE FOR DELAY. USG IS ANXIOUS
TO PROCEED, TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM INITIATED BY
CHRISTOPHER/MINIC DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT, HE EMPHASIZED.

4. CRNJAK SAID HE WOULD CONVEY TO DEFENSE MINISTRY
DCM'S "OBSERVATION". NEITHER STARCEVIC NOR CRNJAK
OFFERED ANY COMMENT OTHER THAN THAT REPORTED ABOVE ON
COMPOSITION OF USG TEAM PER SE OR ON TERMS OF REFERENCE.

5. COMMENT: IT IS FACT THAT LARGE PART OF GOY ON
LEAVE DURING AUGUST, THAT MANY MINISTRIES REDUCED
TO SKELETON STAFF AND THAT INTERRUPTION OF VACATIONS
NOT ALWAYS AN EASY MATTER. TOGETHER WITH THIS
CONSIDERATION, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE YUGOSLAV DESIRE
FOR MAXIMUM PREPAREDNESS AS WELL AS POSSIBLE FAILURE
OF FSFA IN ADVANCE TO COORDINATE MID-AUGUST OFFER OF TIMING
WITH DEFENSE MINISTRY ARE BASIC FACTORS UNDERLYING GOY
REQUEST FOR DELAY. IN SHORT, WE DON'T THINK THEY ARE
PLAYING GAMES WITH US ON THIS ONE. BELIEVE IT BEST TO
RESCHEDULE VISIT IN ACCORDANCE WITH YUGOSLAV WISHES. AS
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PRECAUTION AGAINST POSSIBLE FURTHER SLIPPAGE WE RECOMMEND
THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO PROPOSE NOW SPECIFIC DATE FOR
VISIT ASAP AFTER SEPT. 10 (MONDAY, SEPT. 12TH, COMES
IMMEDIATELY TO MIND) AND AT SAME TIME TO CONVEY FORMAL
EXPRESSION OF USG DISAPPOINTMENT OVER DELAY.

6. PLEASE ADVISE.
EAGLEBURGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, REAL PROPERTY DISPOSAL, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BELGRA05254
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770279-0457
Format: TEL
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770898/aaaadfmw.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BELGRADE 5226
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1713662
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISPOSAL OF US SUPPLIED MILITARY EQUIPMENT
TAGS: MASS, YO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a1b3fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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US Department of State
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22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009